

## Message Text

SECRET

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46

ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEAE-00 IO-03 EUR-08 NSC-05

NSCE-00 SP-02 L-01 INR-05 PM-03 DODE-00 DHA-02 ORM-01

PRS-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00 EB-03 SAM-01 SAB-01 USIA-01

SCA-01 SY-02 SCCT-01 SSM-01 /065 W

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P 031445Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8476

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION GENEVA PRIROITY

USUN NY PRIORITY 3174

S E C R E T BEIRUT 1099

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PFOR, LE, US

SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER TAQLA ON ASSORTED SUBJECTS

REF: (A) BEIRUT 1051; (B) STATE 25826 (NOTAL)

1. I SAW FOREIGN MINISTER TAQLA TODAY AT NOON. AFTER BRIEF REVIEW OF TRAGIC EVENTS IN LEBANON OVER PAST MONTHS HE EXPRESSED OPTIMISM FOR THE FUTURE. I ASSURED HIM OF OUR SATISFACTION WITH CONSOLIDATION OF THE CEASE FIRE AND HOPED THAT A MODERATE POLITICAL SOLUTION MIGHT EMERGE ACCEPTABLE TO ALL THE PARTIES (SEE STATE REFTEL). HE SAID HE WAS AWARE OF USG POSITION IN VARIOUS RECENT

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PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS AND THIS WAS JUST RIGHT. IT WAS JUST WHAT WAS

NEEDED AT THIS TIME.

2. CONVERSATION TURNED TO A REFUGEE AND LEBANESE RECONSTRUCTION NEEDS--THOUGH NOT IN ANY URGENT MANNER AND TAQLA DID NO MAKE ANY SPECIFIC REQUESTS. HE POINED THAT THERE WERE AT LEAST 10,000 HOMELESS REFUGEES WHO WERE IN UTTER NEED OF EVERYTHING IMMEDIATELY. THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE THE OTHER THOUSANDS WHO HAVE BEEN DISPLACED FROM THEIR HOMES BUT ARE BEING TAKEN CARE OF EITHER THROUGH THEIR OWN FAMILIES OR BY SOME OTHER MEANS. THEIR RETURN TO THEIR HOMES IS A LONGER RANGE PROBLEM.

3. TAQLA INFORMED ME THAT AT GOL REQUEST A MISSION FROM UNHCR GENEVA IS ARRIVING TODAY TO ASSESS REFUGEES' NEEDS. THIS IS DIFFERENT FROM PAPAL REPRESENTATIVE WHO HAS ALREADY ARRIVED TO ASSESS PROGRAMS BEING CARRIED OUT BY CHURCH INSTITUTIONS. HE REFERRED IN PASSING TO ICRC PROGRAM AND WFP FOOD HERE. CABINET MEETING YESTERDAY DECIDED TO APPOINT MINISTER OSSEIRAN IN CHARGE OF A COMMITTEE WHICH WILL DEAL WITH SHORT TERM NEEDS WHILE MINISTER TUEINI HEADS COMMITTEE TO DEAL WITH MIDDLE TERM RECONSTRUCTION. MESSAGE HAS JUST BEEN SENT TO NEW YORK REQUESTING SYG WALDHEIM TO APPOINT A UN MISSION TO VISIT LEBANON AND ASSESS ITS NEEDS. ARAB LEAGUE HAS ALREADY BEEN ASKED TO DO THE SAME THROUGH ITS REPRESENTATIVE. LEBANON UNDERSTANDS, TAQLA ADDED, THAT IT WILL HAVE TO BESTIR ITSELF TO MEET MANY OF ITS OWN CRUCIAL NEEDS IN PERIOD AHEAD BUT IT THINKS IT HAS A CASE FOR ASSISTANCE FROM OTHERS.

4. HE AGREED THAT MEANS OF DISTRIBUTING FOOD, MEDICINE AND OTHER ASSISTANCE WAS CRUCIAL PROBLEM TODAY. HE NOTED IN REPLY TO MY QUESTION THAT LEBANESE ARMY REPRESENTATIVE WAS PRESENT IN COMMITTEE DELIBERATIONS INVOLVING AID AND WELFARE. HOWEVER, ALL THESE EFFORTS ARE EMBRYONIC AS YET AND EVERYTHING DEPENDS ON LEBANESE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES BEING ABOUT TO RECONSTRUCT THEMSELVES AND FUNCTION AGAIN. IF SECURITY SITUATION HOLDS HE THOUGHT THIS SHOULD HAPPEN WITHIN A MONTH.

5. I THEN BORE IN ON GALLAGHER AND DYKES. TAQLA WAS AWARE OF THE CASE BUT HAD FORGOTTEN SOME DETAILS. HE AGREED FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN WINNING RELEASE OF THESE

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TWO KIDNAPPED DIPLOMATS IN CONTEXT OF CURRENT CEASE FIRE AGREEMENT. HE PROMISED TO TAKE THE MATTER UP IN THE CONTEXT OF THE HIGHER MILITARY COMMITTEE SUPERVISING THE CEASE FIRE TOMORROW. HE AGREED WE SHOULD BE IN TOUCH IN A FEW DAYS ON THIS QUESTION.

6. TAQLA ASKED ME IF WE HAD ANY INFORMATION INDICATING IMMINENCE OF ISRAELI ACTION, NOT NECESSARILY AGAINST LEBANON BUT PERHAPS SOMEWHERE ON ISRAEL FRONTIER. HE SAID THERE HAD BEEN

SEVERAL COMINGS AND GOINGS OF PROMINENT ARABS SUCH AS PRIME MINISTER RIFAI AND OTHERS YESTERDAY. THIS HAD BEEN ACCOMPANIED BY HIGH VOLUME OF REPORTS FROM VARIOUS SOURCES IN THE AREA, INDICATING CONCENTRATIONS OF ISRAELI TROOPS ON NORTHERN BORDER. I ASSURED HIM WE HAD NO REPEAT NO EXPECTATION OF ANY ISRAELI ATTACK OR SIMILAR ACTION. I NOTED IT WAS NOT AN ISRAELI HABIT TO CONCENTRATE TROOPS IN SUCH AN OBVIOUS WAY BEFORE CARRYING OUT AN ACTION ANY WAY, BUT WAS QUITE SURE NOTHING WAS IMMINENT. I ADDED THAT IT IS TRUE THE ISRAELIS MUST BE WATCHING CLOSELY TO SEE WHERE PLA AND OTHER PALESTINIAN UNITS POSITION THEMSELVES. EVEN THEN HOWEVER, IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT PLA FORCES IN THE NUMBERS THAT ARE PRESENTLY IN LEBANON WOULD BE VIEWED AS A VERY GREAT THREAT BY THE ISRAELIS. TAQLA WAS REASSURED. HE SAID HE WAS AWARE OF OUR BACK STAGE DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY IN RESTRAINING ISRAELIS AS WELL AS PACIFYING SYRIANS DURING PAST WEEKS AND MONTHS.

7. I DEPOSITED COPIES IN THREE LANGUAGES OF U.S. STATEMENT ON MIDDLE EAST ISSUED JAN 26 (AS EMBOFF HAD DEPOSITED DAY BEFORE WITH TAQLA'S DIRECTOR FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS ISMAIL). TAQLA WAS NOT INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING THE QUESTION BUT SAID HE WAS AWARE OF OUR POSITION. HIS ONLY COMMENT WAS THAT PEACE PROCESS WOULD BE DIFFICULT UNDERTAKING AT BEST. HIS TONE WAS RUEFUL RATHER THAN POLE)IC, REFLECTING FACT THAT GOL HAS AND WILL HAVE MANY OTHER PRIORITIES HIGHER ON ITS LIST THESE DAYS.

8. WE SPOKE OF AMBASSADOR GODLEY AND TAQLA SENT REGARDS TO HIM.  
LAMBRAKIS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, REFUGEE RELIEF, KIDNAPPING, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** coburnhl  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** DC ADJUSTED PER ILT SINCE POST IS ON MINIMIZE TRAFFIC LIST  
**Executive Order:** X1  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Reference:** 76 BEIRUT 1051, 76 STATE 25826  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** coburnhl  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 21 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <21 APR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <11 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FOREIGN MINISTER TAQLA ON ASSORTED SUBJECTS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, LE, US, (TAQLA, PHILIPPE)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006